#### CARR-1092

### Bowen's Chapel and School

#### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 02-04-2016

#### CARR-1092

#### Bowen's Chapel and School

Union Bridge

circa 1867/altered 1892

public

Bowen's Chapel and Bark Hill School represent a remarkable survival of a post-Civil War African American church in excellent condition, a structure that also once housed a Freedmen's Bureau school. It is a one-story frame, gable-roofed structure built as a schoolhouse in 1867 on the northwest corner of Bark Hill Road and Raywell Avenue near the town of Union Bridge, Carroll County, Maryland. Used initially as a combination church and school, the building was converted entirely to religious use in 1892, which is its current function. The oral and documentary history of the chapel indicates its use as a split interior with the school on one side and the church on the other. Any evidence of this use and the conversion to a single religious space in the early 1890s may be hidden under the carpet and by the current interior finishes.

#### Inventory No. CARR-1092

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of I	Property	(indicate preferred	name)			
historic	Bowen's Chape	and School				
other						
2. Location						
street and number	4070 Bark Hill	Road			not for publi	cation
city, town	Union Bridge				vicinity	
county	Carroll County					
3. Owner of	<b>Property</b>	(give names and mailing	g addresses of all own	ers)		
name	Bark Hill Metho	odist Church				
street and number	c/o Trustees, P.O	D. Box 155		telephone		
city, town	Union Bridge		state MD	zip code	21791	
4. Location	of Legal D	escription				
courthouse, registr	y of deeds, etc. (	Carroll County Courthouse	lib	per N/A folio N	J/A	
city, town	Westminster	tax map 36	tax parcel 193	tax I	D number 02-	-001861
Contri Deteri Deteri Recor X Histor	buting Resource ir mined Eligible for the mined Ineligible for ded by HABS/HAE ic Structure Report	t or Research Report at MH	vland Register	-		
6. Classifica	ition					
CategorydistrictX_building(s)structuresiteobject	OwnershippublicX_privateboth	Current Function agriculturecommerce/tradedefensedomestic _X_educationfunerarygovernmenthealth careindustry	landscaperecreation/cultu _X_religionsocialtransportation _work in progres _unknown _vacant/not in us _other:	ssse Number o		buildings sites structure objects Total  Resources

### 7. Description

Inventory No. CARR-1092

#### Condition

excellent	deteriorated
X_good	ruins
fair	X_ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### Summary description:

Bowen's Chapel is a one-story frame, gable-roofed structure built as a schoolhouse in 1867 on the northwest corner of Bark Hill Road and Raywell Avenue near the town of Union Bridge, Carroll County, Maryland. The principal elevation faces south. Used initially as a combination church and school, the building was converted entirely to religious use, which is its current function. It is the only structure on the approximately one-quarter acre property. The building's principal south elevation is situated approximately thirty feet from Bark Hill Road. It is in very good condition, although altered principally in exterior cladding and interior finishes. The date of the structure was identified from a requisition for building materials and delivery information dated March and April 1867 in records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

#### Exterior:

The chapel is on a raised stone foundation that has been covered with cement. The exterior cladding is vinyl siding and the roof is covered with corrugated metal sheeting. According to the 1867 materials list in the Freedmen's Bureau communication, the original cladding was wood siding or weatherboards. It is assumed that the original siding is largely still in place, although this was not confirmed by physical evidence. The original roofing was apparently cypress shingles; the metal covering may conceal the shingles, but their presence and condition is unconfirmed. The rafter ends at the eaves are covered with vinyl soffits. The principal entrance is in the center of the south elevation at the top of a brick staircase of four steps. Iron handrails are located on each side of the brick steps and the center part of the stairs are covered with artificial turf. The brick steps appear to date from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The original steps to the doorway were probably wood, based on the typical materials found in similar structures of the same period. The doorway consists of double solid wood doors under a transom of six rectangular lights set under a segmental arch. The vinyl application probably covers a deeper arch opening with wood molding. The doors have no molding or other decoration and may be replacements of the original double doors, described in the 1867 materials list only as "1 double door". The list also refers to a "single door", but its location is unknown. This may have been a rear door used in the school side of the building and its site has been covered by the drywall. Above the doorway under the peak of the gable rood is a four-light oculus window with plain window glass.

At the southwest corner of the foundation is a marble stone inscribed "1892". This stone is assumed to have been installed in the original stone foundation of 1867 at the time the building was converted entirely to religious use, a separate school building having been built on the rear of the lot (See Section 8: Significance).

The east and west elevations of the building each have four bays with a two over two window with plain glass in each bay under a semi-circular vinyl arch outline. As with the entrance doorway, these vinyl arches may conceal the original wood moldings above the windows. On each of the east and west elevations, near the south corners, are projecting furnace exhaust pipe elbows breaking through the wall just below the eaves. Electrical circuit boxes and meters are also located on the lower part of the wall below the pipe on the east elevation.

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There are also downspouts at each corner. On the west elevation, the two outer end windows currently contain window air conditioning units in their lower halves. A brick chimney breaks through the metal roof cladding at about the center of the east elevation.

The north elevation has a projecting bay with small one over one windows in each side; the north side of the projection is unbroken by openings. This projection houses an apse on the interior and was probably added to the original schoolhouse building when it was converted to the sole use as a church in 1892.

#### Interior:

The interior consists of a single space with plaster walls. The floor is stained wooden boards. Carpet covers the center and side aisles formed by two ranks of wood pews. The pews are probably not original to the church, but may have been acquired in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. A low, dark-stained wooden altar rail with turned balusters extends around the pulpit area at the north end of the sanctuary space. This rail may be original to the 1892 rededication period.

The apse is outlined by a recessed arch and the small space contains four modern chairs. The other furnishings of the altar area, the lectern, the communion table, chairs, and the scripture and hymn notice board to the left of the apse appear to be of various time periods throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Two gas heating units are suspended from the ceiling at each of the southeast and southwest corners. An inclined chimney section on the east wall indicates where a heating stove probably once stood, with a connection to the chimney above. Near the center ridge of the sanctuary are two modern ceiling fans with light fixtures. A single double-light wall sconce of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date is hung on the west wall near an upright piano.

The oral and documentary history of the chapel indicates its use as a split interior with the school on one side and the church on the other. Any evidence of this use and the conversion to a single religious space in the early 1890's may be hidden under the carpet and by the current interior finishes.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. CARR-1092
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and	justify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	economics X education engineering entertainment/ recreation X ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	<ul> <li>health/medicine</li> <li>industry</li> <li>invention</li> <li>landscape architecture</li> <li>law</li> <li>literature</li> <li>maritime history</li> <li>military</li> </ul>	performing arts philosophy politics/government X_ religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates	dates circa 1867/altered 1892		Architect/Builder N/A	
Construction da	ates circa 1867			
Evaluation for:				
	National Register		Maryland Register	Y not evaluated

Significance

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Bowen's Chapel and Bark Hill School represent a remarkable survival of a post-Civil War African American church in excellent condition, a structure that also once housed a Freedmen's Bureau school. A group of nine trustees led by Lloyd Coates and John Thompson, who split from the all-black Mt. Olivet congregation which had been founded in nearby New Windsor in 1848, purchased this quarter-acre lot on the northwest corner of the intersection of Bark Hill Road and Raywell Avenue from David and Rachel Row in 1867 for \$50. The location between the towns of Union Bridge and Uniontown was sometimes called Muttontown, later Middletown. This was an area of Quaker settlement in the eighteenth century with an associated African American presence and some free black land ownership in the early eighteenth century. (Bark Hill Road Cemetery is located about 1/4 mile west at the southwest corner of the intersection of Bark Hill and Hoff roads.) The deed for the Bowen's Chapel lot, recorded in March 1867, noted the intended purpose for the lot was to provide a school for the "colored part of the population of Uniontown District" with the assistance of the Freedmen's Bureau. Building materials were provided by the Bureau and were to be shipped to the Western Maryland Railroad terminus at Union Bridge. The trustees instructed the shipment could be left at Linwood Station, a stop just south of Union Bridge, after Rueben Haines, a local farmer, offered to let them use his siding at no cost. Two railroad cars full of building supplies were received and 1200ft, of additional lumber was purchased from Jesse Anders in Union Bridge. The building was under construction by September 1867; J. H. Christ, a local white man who served as an intermediary to the Freedmen's Bureau, wrote on September 16, 1867, "I am happy to inform you sir that colored people are at work in earnest at this school house. They have a mechanic employed and the frame is already up. I think it will be completed in 3 or 4 weeks."<sup>2</sup>

[Singleton Hughes, pastor of Mt. Joy Methodist Episcopal Church in Uniontown, applied to the Freedmen's Bureau for school aid in the form of building supplies in December 1866 just prior to the Bowen's Chapel

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Letter, J. H. Christ to Major General Gregory, March 30, 1867, M1906, Roll 4, Screen no. 0439-0440, Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871, National Archives and Records Administration,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Letter, J. H. Christ to Capt. Sam'l J. Wright, September 16, 1867, M1906, Roll 12, Screen no. 1016, Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

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group.<sup>3</sup> In support of his petition he noted that he had a deed for a 1/2-3/4 acre lot about 1/4 mile from the west edge of the "built up part of the town of Union Town" for use of the "Colored population of the Methodist Episcopal Church." The Uniontown lot was about 1 1/2 miles northeast of the Bowens Chapel site. He believed a school would attract as many as 40-45 students during the day and 20-30 at night. "There is no other school in the County (that we know of) for the Colored population." He received a promising reply from a Bureau official asking for an estimate for the local cost of building materials since Uniontown was deemed too distant from the railroad to make shipment feasible. By March 1867, correspondence with the Bowen's Chapel group and their intermediary J.H. Christ, who also used a Uniontown address (causing some uncertainty in attributing the location for the school referred to in some of the Bureau correspondence), begins and there appears to be no further correspondence with Singleton Hughes. No correspondence has been found clarifying any relationship or decision between the two locations, but it appears that a decision was made to support the Bowen's Chapel group instead. Singleton Hughes was a former slave and a Methodist Episcopal minister who founded Mt. Joy ME Church in 1858. His congregation used a former residence for church services until building a church proper in 1880. No school was recorded on the Mt. Joy lot.]

According to community history the chapel building at the front of the lot was built first and was used as a combination church and school with a central interior partition and two pot-bellied stoves. The late Evelyn Howard, for example, a member of the Bowen's Chapel congregation, remembered her grandmother attending school in the original school/church building. J. H. Christ reported in November 1868 that even though the schoolhouse had been completed for some time, no arrangements had been made to open a school: "the colored people are much more anxious to have meeting in the schoolhouse than school." However, the school continued meeting for several years, and was listed as a Freedmen's Bureau school in July 1869.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Letter, Singleton Hughes to Major Lieutenant Howard, December 4, 1866, M1906, Roll 3, Screen no. 0055, Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Letter, Singleton Hughes to Brvt. Major General E. M. Gregory, December 29, 1866, M1906, Roll 3, Screen no. 0058, Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Letter, Edward C. Knower, Capt. V. R. C. and A. A. A. General, to Singleton Hughes, December 29, 1866, M1906, Roll 1, Screen no. 0099, Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Evelyn Brooks Howard, "Bark Hill School," in Joan Prall, "Schoolbells and Slates," undated document in collection of the Historical Society of Carroll County, 28-29

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Letter, J. H. Christ to John Kimball, November 5, 1868, M1056, Roll 6, Screen no. 0329, Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. <sup>8</sup> July 31, 1869, M803, Roll 18, Screen no. 0180, School Reports, District of Columbia (incl. Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia), Monthly Mar-June. 1870, Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

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Bowen's Chapel represents the vitality of the local African American community and hints at some disagreements within that community as it reflected shifts in the wider community in the postwar years. The need for a church meeting space preempting school use is supported by local church history that holds that the Bowen's Chapel congregation was established by a splinter group from Mt. Olive Methodist Episcopal Church about six miles to the south just over the Frederick County line and from Mt. Joy ME Church in Uniontown. Bowen's Chapel affiliated itself with the African Union Methodist Protestant Church, which claims status as the first fully independent African-American denomination. It was chartered in 1813 by Rev. Peter Spencer in Wilmington, Delaware as the African Union Church. In 1866 the AU Church joined with the First Colored Methodist Protestant Church (a Maryland splinter group from the AME Church) to form the African Union Methodist Protestant Church. The denomination still has about forty congregations in the mid-Atlantic region. 9

J. Thomas Scharf's *History of Western Maryland* listed an "African" public school at Middletown in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Election District (Uniontown) in 1881 with trustees John Thompson, Summerfield Roberts, and Lloyd Coats. A separate, slightly smaller school building was built behind the chapel in 1892 when it was noted as "recently constructed" and leased to the Carroll County School Commissioners as a public school for the "African or colored race" in December 1892. Trustees at that time included John Thompson, William Waters, John Willis, Henry Willis, Theodore Walker, William Crampton, and Jesse Davis. When the separate schoolhouse was built, the partition in the older building was removed and the building rededicated as a chapel. A new cornerstone reading "1892" was inserted into the foundation.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Cassandra R. Costley, "Carroll County: The Early Black Religious Experience," undated, in Vertical File "Union St. ME Church," Historical Society of Carroll County, Westminster, MD, 5-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland, Vol. II* (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968; originally published 1882), 860; Carroll County Land Records, Deed (1892), Liber 75, Folio 492; Howard, "Bark Hill School," 28-29.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CARR-1092

Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group 105, National Archives, microfilm M1906, rolls 1, 3, 4, 6, 12, and 18.

Watson, Valeria. "Little Methodist Church Makes Black History for 100 Years," *Carroll County Times* [Westminster] (Feb. 27, 1989): A3.

### 10. Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification

# 11. Form Prepared by

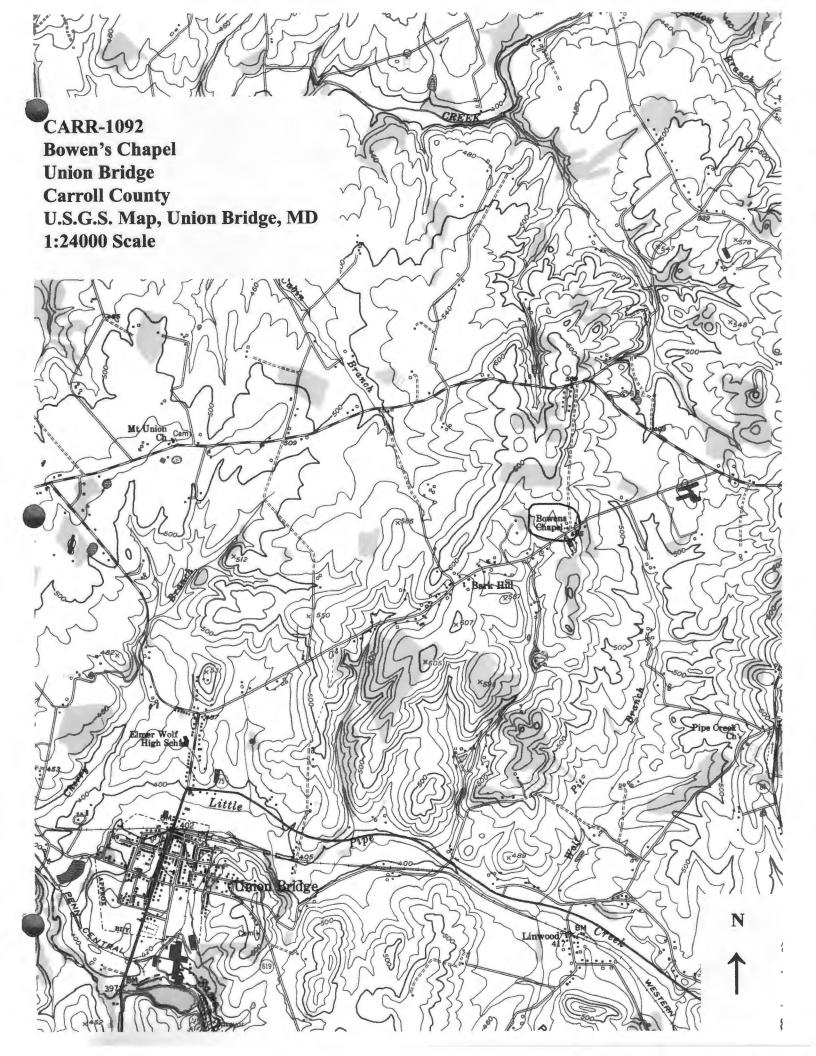
name/title			
organization	The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies	date	7/31/2009
street & number	7932 Oppossumtown Pike	telephone	301-624-2773
city or town	Frederick	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Department of Planning 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600



## Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Property Name: Bowen's Chapel **Digital Photograph File Log** 

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Ink Used: Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks Paper Used: Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper

Date: September 4, 2009

File Name	Photo Description	Photographer
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_01	North view, façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_02	Northwest view, façade and west side	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_03	Northwest view, west side and facade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_04	Southwest view, exterior of apse	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_05	Southeast view, exterior of apse	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_06	Southeast view, east side and exterior of apse	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_07	Northeast view, east side	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_08	Southeast view, east side and chimney	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_09	Southeast view, roof and chimney on east side	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_10	Northwest view, cornerstone	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_11	Entrance, front doors, and rosette window	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_12	Nave from choir	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_13	Interior of chimney, where the original stove connected to the chimney (east wall)	Jenna Gianni

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CARR-1092_2009-07-22_14	View from east side aisle of choir and apse	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_15	View from nave of east side of choir, with piano and banister	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_16	View from nave of west side of choir, with organ	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_17	View from nave, apse, pulpit, and banister	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_18	View from nave of east side of choir floor	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1092_2009-07-22_19	View from east side aisle of pew	Jenna Gianni



CARR-1092 Bowen's Chapela School, Bark Hill Rd. Rzywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive Nview, Jagade 1/19



CARR-1092 Bowen's Chapel & School, Bark Hill Rd. & Raywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive

NW view, Façade + west side



CARR- 109Z Bowens Chapel + School, Bark Hill Rd. + Raywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NW view, west side + Josede



CARR-1092 Bowens Chapel & School, Bark Hill Rd. + Raywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Janna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive SW view, exterior of apse 4/19



CARR- 1092 Bouen's Chapel + School, BarkHill Rd. + Raywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive SEview, exterior of spse 5/19



CARR-1092 Boweris Chapel 4 School, Bark Hill Rd. 4 Raywell Live. Carroll County MD Jenna Giznni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive SE view, esst side + exterior of apre



CARR- 1092 Baveris Chapel & School, Bark Hill Rd. & Raywell Ave. Carroll Canty, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive NE view, east side



CARR-1092 Bowens Chapel & School, Bark Hill Rd. 4 Praywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MATT Digital Archive SEview, east side & drimney 8/19



CARR-1092
Bowen's Chapel & School, Bark Hill Rd. + Raywell Ave.
Carroll Canty, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive

SE view, roof + chimney on east side



CARR-1092 Baveris Chapel + School, Bark Hill Rd. + Raywell Ave. corroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive NW view, cornerstone



CARR-109Z Bowens Chapel & School, Bark Hill Rd.4 Raywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive Entrance, Front doors of rosettle window



CARR-1092 Bower's Chapel + School, Bark Hill Rd. + Raywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive Nave From choir



CARR- 1092 Bowen's Chapel & Church, Bark Hill Rd & Playwell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive Interior of chimney, where the original stove connected to the chimney (eastwale) 13/19



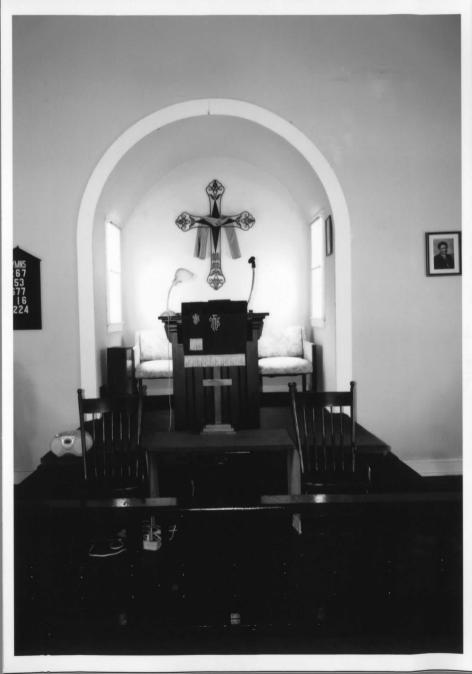
CARR-1092 Baveris Chapel + School, Bark Hill Rd. + Raywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive View from east side aisle of chair of 14/19



CARR- 109Z Bowen's Chapel+School, Baric Hill Rd.+ Raywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive View from nave of east side of choir, with piano a banister 15/19



CARR-1092 Bower's Chapel & School, Barle Hill Rd.+ Rzywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive View from move of west side of choir, with organ 16/19



CARR-1092 Bowens Chapel & School, Bark Hill, Rd. + Praywell Ave. Canvoll Canty, HD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive View from nave, apre, pulpit, + banister 17/19



CARR- 109Z Baveris Chapel + School, Bark Hill Rd. + Raywell Ave. Carroll Cainty, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive View from nave of east side of choir floor 18/19



CARR- 1092 Bowens Chapel + School, Bark Hill Rd. + Praywell Ave. Carroll County, MD Jenna Gianni 07/2009 MHT Digital Archive View from east side aisle of 19/19